UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Saturday, August 9, 2025

The Regents: Behind Closed Doors

The Regents are meeting behind closed doors on Monday to discuss what you might expect they would be discussing.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Date: **August 11, 2025**
Time: **4:00 p.m.**[1]
Location: **Robertson Auditorium, UCSF-Mission Bay Conference Center San Francisco campus**
For teleconference locations, please visit
https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/august112025.html

Agenda – Closed Session

B1(X) Discussion External Funding Litigation and Legal Issues

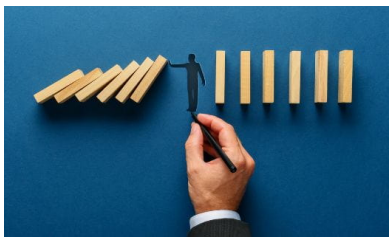
Closed Session Statute Citation:
Litigation [Education Code §92032(b)(5)]

Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/aug25/boardxaugust112025.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:59 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC Regents

Intervention



From the LA Times: *Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday said UC should not bend "on their knees" to the president as university leaders negotiate with the Trump administration to restore more than half a billion dollars in frozen UCLA grants amid antisemitism accusations.*

Newsom chided settlements Trump struck with two Ivy League universities. Columbia and Brown agreed to pay hefty fines and make sweeping campus changes in exchange for the restoration of research money that was also canceled over Trump antisemitism allegations. Harvard too is negotiating with the government over similar charges... The remarks from Newsom were his first public comments about how UC should proceed with Trump, and the first indication — if vague — of how a UC settlement with Trump may or may not look...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-07/newsom-ucla-trump-grant-freeze-negotiations-antisemitism.

Gov. Newsom has been running a non-campaign for president in 2028 and has been attacking Trump regularly on social media. He is threatening to redistrict California to offset Trump's plan to redistrict Texas. He is an *ex officio* Regent and, in fact, technically president of the Board of Regents. Apart from general budgetary matters, the last time Newsom showed an interest in

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions

Remaking the University

- The coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the University of California and the Californian economy - 8/26/2025
- Liner Note 37. Chicago's Gift to Trump - 8/24/2025
- Liner Note 36. UCLA in the Extortion Machine - 8/10/2025

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- Chronicle of Higher Education
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Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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regental affairs was when UCLA changed athletic conferences. (And the Regents dutifully went along with what he wanted.) As we have previously noted, the fact that UC - unlike Columbia and Brown - is a public institution creates levels of decision making and politics not found in private universities.

If Newsom didn't like the monetary deals made by Columbia and Brown, he surely won't be keen on the $1 billion that the feds have asked in the UCLA case, which we discussed yesterday.

We asked in prior posts who is in charge: The UC president? The UCLA chancellor? The Regents? Now add The Governor to that list.

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Other documents

From an email received yesterday:

Dear Bruin Community:

I wanted to keep you informed of key developments on the suspension of federal funding to UCLA. President Milliken shared this morning that the University of California has received a document from the Department of Justice related to our federal research funding, and is reviewing it.

I want to reiterate from my first message on this matter our commitment to do everything we can to protect the interests of faculty, students and staff — and to defend our values and principles.

***The UC Board of Regents and the UC Office of the President are providing counsel as we actively evaluate our best course of action.** I will continue to be in constant communication with you on key decisions and update you on any developments.*

We are One UCLA.

Julio Frenk

Chancellor

==

Statement from University of California President James Milliken, Friday, August 8, 2025:

"The University of California just received a document from the Department of Justice and is reviewing it. Earlier this week, we offered to engage in good faith dialogue with the Department to protect the University and its critical research mission. As a public university, we are stewards of taxpayer resources and a payment of this scale would completely devastate our country's greatest public university system as well as inflict great harm on our students and all Californians. Americans across this great nation rely on the vital work of UCLA and the UC system for technologies and medical therapies that save lives, grow the U.S. economy, and protect our national security."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, Columbia, governor, Milliken, politics, UC Regents, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 65

From the NY Times: *When the Department of Justice recently opened an investigation into George Mason University over accusations that the university's diversity programs were discriminatory, many members of the faculty were outraged. Professors quickly published a resolution supporting their president and the university's efforts around diversity. Now, Justice Department officials say they will investigate the faculty, too.*

...The Trump administration said it would seek drafts of the faculty resolution, all written communications among the Faculty Senate members who drafted the resolution, and all communications between those faculty members and the office of the university's president, Gregory Washington. ...The faculty resolution affirmed the university's previous stance that "diversity is our strength." It also defended Dr. Washington, the university's first Black president, who has been a target of the Trump administration.

...The Justice Department's interest in the faculty resolution suggested that the Trump administration was widening its targets as it escalates attacks on what it views as a left-leaning climate on college campuses...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/28/us/justice-department-george-mason-faculty-senate-investigation.html.

From the NY Times: *Paul G. Mahoney, a former dean of the law school at the University of Virginia, was named the institution's interim president on Monday, after his predecessor as president resigned under intense pressure from the Trump administration. The university's governing board met on Monday to approve Mr. Mahoney's appointment. He is taking over the helm of a university that was operating in a leadership vacuum as it attempted to negotiate a tricky legal predicament posed by several Department of Justice investigations.*

The former president, James E. Ryan, left in July following a campaign waged against him by the Department of Justice and a conservative Virginia alumni group, the Jefferson Council, that led a multiyear crusade attacking the school's diversity, equity and inclusion programs. The

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Contributors

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- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

university's longtime provost and second-highest executive, Ian Baucom, left earlier in the year to become president of Middlebury College. Members of the university's board, who are appointees of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, said at the meeting Monday that they hoped to select a new permanent president within four to six months...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/04/us/politics/university-virginia-appoints-interim-president.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, George Mason U, Middlebury, politics, U of Virginia

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 44

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Department of Homeland Security will not enforce its May 22 letter revoking Harvard's certification to host international students, government lawyers wrote in a court document filed on Wednesday. The revocation was swiftly blocked from going into effect after Harvard sued in May, and a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction extending the block in June. Now, the agency has abandoned its pursuit of the initial letter altogether. Lawyers for the government wrote in the Wednesday filing that the decision was made to "simplify this case and narrow the issues in dispute." They also wrote that they had proposed the decision to Harvard as part of an effort to "jointly" condense the case, but that the University declined...*

The stipulation may be an acknowledgment that the May 22 letter, which revoked Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification immediately and without opportunity for appeal, lies on unsteady legal ground. Harvard has argued that the letter violated procedural rules, in addition to being retaliatory and unconstitutional...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/8/7/dhs-stipulation/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Friday, August 8, 2025

Opening Move? Or...

From the LA Times: *University of California leaders said Friday they were stunned by a **$1-billion demand** from the Trump administration to settle federal accusations of antisemitism in exchange for restoring more than half a billion dollars in frozen grant funding to UCLA, with the new UC president saying the proposal would "completely devastate" the vaunted system.*

A proposal from the federal government sent to UC said the university system should pay the billion-dollar fine in installments and contribute $172 million to a fund to pay Jewish students and other individuals affected by alleged violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The statute covers illegal discrimination related to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or shared ancestry, including Jewish and Israeli identity. In addition, the proposal demanded sweeping campus changes encompassing protests, admissions, gender identity in sports and housing, the abolition of scholarships for racial or ethnic groups, and submission to an outside monitor over the agreement.

In a statement Friday, UC President James B. Milliken, who oversees the 10-campus system that includes UCLA, appeared to rebuff the demand...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-08/trump-seeking-1-billion-fine-from-ucla-over-antisemitism-allegations.

Here are some observations.

1) The $1 billion figure is so big that - even apart from any other demands - it raises the question of whether that ask is an opening move in a negotiation that could lead to a settlement or whether it is a signal that the feds really don't want a settlement at this time. Keep in mind that the settlement with Columbia was for $221 million. Harvard has reportedly been asked for $500 million and rejected it. Given the $1 billion magnitude, it seems plausible that the feds don't want a settlement for now and want instead to keep the pot boiling.

2) Even if the $1 billion is a real opening move, it remains unclear on the university side as to who is in charge. Is it UC (with its new president) or UCLA (with its relatively new chancellor) or the UC Regents? While all are obviously "involved," no negotiation can occur without someone who can speak for the university and make decisions.

3) The chancellor has said UCLA has a contingency plan, although it is unclear what that is or whether the plan is to have a planning committee that he has also referenced. Whether the $1 billion ask is just a message that no deal is wanted now, or whether it is an opening to an actual negotiation, whatever plan there is will need to be revealed very soon. We have previously

noted a crude north campus/south campus divide in terms of federal dependence. It is also the case that many research programs on the south side of that divide cannot easily be turned off and on like a light switch. The contingency has arrived.

4) UCLA is a public institution, unlike, say, Columbia. We'll have more to say about the politics involved tomorrow. But there are many public universities around the country that could have been targeted. UCLA, however, tied for national attention with Columbia in its encampment, police intervention, etc. Like Columbia, it also has a med school which makes it more dependent on federal funding than, say, Berkeley. There is also the "LA" in UCLA as well as the "C" for California.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 2:41 PM No comments:

Labels: Columbia, Harvard, politics, UC Regents, UCLA, UCOP

Sharing

From the LA Times: *...Revenue sharing payments started flowing into UCLA football players' PayPal accounts this week, leading to the inevitable sidling up to teammates for quiet comparisons … or not... While UCLA athletic director Martin Jarmond would not divulge the specifics of his school's revenue-sharing plan, it's believed that the football team was allotted roughly 75% of the $20.5 million in payments — or about $15.375 million — which is in line with the suggested formula as part of the House settlement with the NCAA. That would break down to $146,428 per player if divided evenly among the 105 players on the roster, though coach DeShaun Foster said his staff divvied up the money based on talent evaluations...*

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/newsletter/2025-08-04/ucla-revenue-sharing-not-who-make-what.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

It must be the Musk

Musk, but not Elon's:

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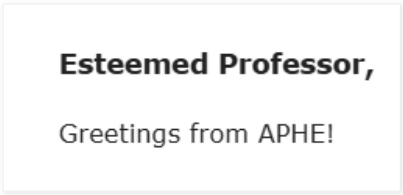

Esteemed Professor,
Greetings from APHE!
I saw your articles in online with goodinterest and was astounded to read such a novel paper.
MynellDollie Roslyn, managing editor ofAnnals of Public Health & Epidemiology (APHE)has anISSN: 2832-7942. I know that this is the first time I am contacting you. Building a trustful relationship with the eminent like you were not an easy task for me. By the mid of August, I am planning to release a special issue namely Authors Pick for which I am in requisite of one article. Youll have to be a big part of helping us to make this issue successful.
Could you benevolently help by supporting me with your unpublished contribution? May I expect it on or before12thof August, 2025?
Acknowledge this email within 24 hours.
Dollie Roslyn
Managing Editor

[Click on image to clarify.]

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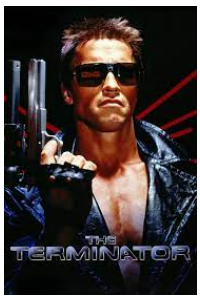
Last line reads, "If you are not interested reply as terminate." I'll check with Arnold:



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

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